

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1 (~~Four~~Five-times amended). A method for stimulating systemic host defense mechanisms against a pathogenic condition in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal having such a condition a therapeutically effective amount of an interferon via oromucosal contact, said amount being from about 21.4 IU/kg/day to about 2.9×10^4 IU/kg/day, where said amount is less than an amount which induces a pathological response in the mammal when administered parenterally, said oromucosal administration being ~~in a manner which~~such that it does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and provided that when the condition is rhinovirus, the interferon is not administered through the mouth by multiple or continuous doses.